

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 IO-13 /078 W  
-----202105Z 026682 /45

R 201425Z APR 77  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4406  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB, GW  
SUBJECT: BERLIN CDU PARTY CONGRESS

1. SUMMARY: FIRST BERLIN CDU PARTY CONGRESS OF 1977  
PRODUCED NO SURPRISES. PETER LORENZ WAS RE-ELECTED

BERLIN CDU CHAIRMAN, OTHER CURRENT BERLIN CDU OFFICIALS  
ALSO RE-ELECTED. LORENZ AND NATIONAL CDU PARTY CHAIRMAN,  
HELMUT KOHL, WHO WAS FEATURED SPEAKER, ROUTINELY CIRITICIZED  
SPD/FDP COALITIONS IN BONN AND BERLIN AND CALLED FOR  
HARD WORK BY PARTY MEMBERS TO BRIN CDU TO POWER LOCALLY  
AND NATIONALLY. END SUMMARY.

2. ATTHE 59TH BERLIN CDU PARTY CONGRESS, APRIL 15-16,  
PETER LORENZ WAS RE-ELECTED BERLIN CDU CHAIRMAN FOR  
NEW TWO AND A HALF YEAR TERM WITH A CLEAR BUT SLIGHTLY  
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REDUCED MAJORITY COMPARED WITH HIS LAST ELECTION  
IN MAY 1975. HE RECEIVED 277 OF 329 VOTES; 44 DELEGATES  
VOTED AGAINST HIM. DEPUTY CDU CHAIRMAN KARL-HEINZ SCHMITZ  
AND PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY EBERHARD DIEPGEN AS WELL  
AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN LIESELOTTE BERGER, JUERGEN WOHLRABE  
AND HERIBERT BAUMANN WERE ALSO RE-ELECTED WITHOUT  
OPPOSITION.

3. LORENZ, WHO SPOKE THREE TIMES DURING CONGRESS, WITHOUT UNDUE ENTHUSIASM, CALLED ON CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS TO ACHIEVE A CDU VICTORY IN THE 1979 BERLIN ELECTIONS. HE ALSO ATTEMPTED TO POUR COLD WATER ON RECENT SPECULATION THAT THE CDU MIGHT NAME FORMER CHANCELLOR-CANDIDATE RAINER BARZEL TO TAKE OVER AS TOP CDU CANDIDATE IN BERLIN. LORENZ RECITED STANDARD CRITICISMS OF THE SENAT AND CALLED UPON SCHUETZ AND COMPANY TO RESIGN SO THAT NEW ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD THIS YEAR. A RESOLUTION TO THIS EFFECT WAS UNANIMOUSLY PASSED BY CONGRESS DELEGATES FOLLOWING ROUTINE DEBATE. DELEGATES REJECTED, HOWEVER, POSSIBILITY OF GRAND COALITION WITH BERLIN SPD UNDER ITS PRESENT LEADERSHIP.

4. BERLIN CDU GENERAL SECRETARY DIEPGEN, PROVIDED DELEGATES WITH POSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF CDU ACTIVITIES FOR PAST TWO YEARS. HE CLAIMED, INTER ALIA, THAT CDU HAS PROVIDED CONSTRUCTIVE OPPOSITION TO SPD/FDP GOVERNMENT. DIEPGEN ALSO LAUDED EFFORTS OF PARTY RANK AND FILE IN RECRUITING NEW CDU MEMBERS CREATING BROADER BASED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PARTY. NONETHELESS, HE RENEWED THE CALL FOR MORE ACTIVE RECRUITMENT AMONG WOMEN AND THE WORKING CLASS. IN DELIVERING HIS ASSESSMENT, DIEPGEN SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME CRITICIZING THE PRESENT SENAT LEADERSHIP, WHICH HE

CHARACTERIZED AS "NO LONGER BEING ABLE TO RULE, BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BARELY ABLE TO ADMINISTER" THE CITY.

5. ADVERTISED HIGHLIGHT OF CONGRESS WAS ADDRESS BY CDU NATIONAL CHAIRMAN HELMUT KOHL. KOHL'S SPEECH WAS, HOWEVER, FAIRLY ROUTINE. HE MADE STANDARD CALL FOR THE END OF THE NATIONAL SPD-FDP COALITION IN BONN, BUT RULED OUT A CDU GRAND COALITION WITH SPD. TURNING TO FOREIGN POLICY, KOHL ACCUSED SOVIET UNION AND GDR OF ADOPTING AN AGGRESSIVE POLICY AGAINST WEST BERLIN AND APPEALED TO BONN GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE APPROPRIATE COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST EAST. KOHL'S CALL FOR A TOUGHER POLICY IN DEALING WITH THE EAST WAS ECHOED BY PETER LORENZ WHO SUGGESTED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT INCREASED SWING CREDITS IN INNER-GERMAN TRADE BE MADE SUBJECT TO CONDITION THAT GDR DEMONSTRATE A WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN AREAS IMPORTANT TO WEST BERLIN SUCH AS PERMITTING CITY TO BE TIED INTO FRG ELECTRIC POWER NET.

6. COMMENT: CDU PARTY CONGRESS WAS VERY ROUTINE AFFAIR. DELEGATES WERE REASONABLY ATTENTIVE AND APPLAUDED AT APPROPRIATE PLACES, BUT BASICALLY IT WAS A LACKLUSTER EVENT AT WHICH NOTHING NEW WAS SAID OR DONE. THIS IS IRONIC IN VIEW OF INCREASINGLY OPTIMISTIC MOOD AMONG LOCAL CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. HOWEVER, ELECTIONS ARE STILL TWO YEARS ALONG AND PARTY CAN BE EXPECTED TO MOVE INTO HIGH GEAR BEFORE END OF 1977.  
GEORGE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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